

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A combination, comprising valdecoxib, or a pharmaceutically acceptable
5 salt thereof, and an allosteric inhibitor of MMP-13, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
2. The combination according to Claim 1, wherein the allosteric inhibitor of
MMP-13 comprises a hydrophobic group and first and second hydrogen bond
10 acceptors, wherein:
 - (a) the relative positions of centroids of the above features are defined by the following Cartesian coordinates in Å:
 - (i) first hydrogen bond acceptor, 0.00, 0.00, 0.00;
 - (ii) second hydrogen bond acceptor, 5.08, 2.23, 0.0;
 - 15 (iii) first hydrophobic group, -1.52, -3.06, -0.23; and
 - (b) tolerances in the positions of the hydrophobic group and the hydrogen bond acceptors are ± 1.0 Å and ± 1.5 Å respectively.
3. The combination according to Claim 1, wherein the allosteric inhibitor of
20 MMP-13 comprises first and second hydrophobic groups and first and second hydrogen bond acceptors, wherein:
 - (a) the relative positions of centroids of the above features are defined by the following Cartesian coordinates in Å:
 - (i) first hydrogen bond acceptor, 0.00, 0.00, 0.00;
 - 25 (ii) second hydrogen bond acceptor, 5.08, 2.23, 0.0;
 - (iii) first hydrophobic group, -1.52, -3.06, -0.23;
 - (iv) second hydrophobic group, 9.07, 0.00, 0.00; and
 - (b) tolerances in the positions of the hydrophobic groups and the hydrogen bond acceptors are ± 1.0 Å and ± 1.5 Å respectively.
- 30 4. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a combination of valdecoxib, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and an allosteric inhibitor of MMP-

13, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.

5. A method of treating a disease or disorder selected from cartilage damage,
5 inflammation, arthritis, and pain in a mammal, comprising administering to the
mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a combination of valdecoxib, or a
pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and an allosteric inhibitor of MMP-13,
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 10 6. The method according to Claim 5, wherein the disease or disorder is
rheumatoid arthritis.
7. The method according to Claim 5, wherein the disease or disorder is
osteoarthritis.
- 15 8. The method according to Claim 5, wherein the disease or disorder is joint
inflammation.
9. The method according to Claim 5, wherein the pain is joint pain.